

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, UNGA, RQ, SL

SUBJECT: PUERTO RICO IN COMMITTEE OF 24

REF: BRAZZAVILLE 1076

1. DEPARTMENT INFORMED TODAY BY USUN THAT YUGOSLAV MISOFF IN NEW YORK BELIEVES US WILL BE IN TROUBLE ON PUERTO RICO IN COMMITTEE OF 24 THIS YEAR BECAUSE OF THREE VOTE CHANGES. TWO ARE PREDICTABLE, ETHIOPIA AND AFGHANISTAN, BUT THE THIRD, DUE ACCORDING TO THE YUGOSLAV TO EXTENSIVE CUBAN LOBBYING, IS THE CONGO. BECAUSE THE COMMITTEE VOTE WILL BE VERY CLOSE THIS YEAR AND GIVEN THE CONGO 1977 POSITION, YOU SHOULD DISCUSS THIS MATTER ASAP AT THE HIGHEST FEASIBLE LEVEL EMPHASIZING THAT THIS QUESTION IS OF CONCERN AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF THE

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT.

2. IN REQUESTING CONGOLESE SUPPORT FOR PROCEDURAL RESOLUTION YOU SHOULD STRESS THE FOLLOWING:
--THE PRESIDENT'S PROCLAMATION HAS MADE CLEAR HIS WILLINGNESS TO SUPPORT THE EXPRESSED WISHES OF THE PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO, WHETHER THEY CHOOSE INDEPENDENCE, STATE-

HOOD, COMMONWEALTH STATUS, OR A MODIFICATION OF THAT STATUS.

-- THE PROCLAMATION IS A REAFFIRMATION OF EXISTING US POLICY THAT PUERTO RICO IS CLEARLY SELF-GOVERNING WITHIN THE MEANING OF CHAPTER XI OF THE UN CHARTER. THE PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO FREELY ENTERED INTO THE PRESENT ARRANGEMENT IN 1952, AND EXPRESSED THEIR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF THAT ARRANGEMENT IN A 1967 REFERENDUM.

-- PUERTO RICO IS A VIGOROUS DEMOCRACY. FOR THE COMMITTEE TO DECIDE THAT PUERTO RICO BELONGS ON A LIST OF NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES WOULD BE TANTAMOUNT TO SAYING THAT THE PRESENT STATUS DOES NOT REFLECT THE FREELY EXPRESSED VIEWS OF THE PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO. SUCH A CONCLUSION FLIES IN THE FACE OF ITS HISTORY AND POLITICS OVER THE PAST FEW DECADES, INCLUDING REPEATED FREE ELECTIONS.

-- IN DETERMINING THE VOTE IN THE C-24, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE CONGO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE FACTS OF THE PUERTO RICAN SITUATION AND CONSIDER, AS WELL, WHERE THE CONGO'S NATIONAL INTEREST LIES IN VIEW OF THE US STRONGLY FELT POSITION IN THIS MATTER.

3. FYI: WE APPRECIATE ASSURANCES OF CONGOLESE POSITION
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(REFTEL) BUT, IN VIEW YUGOSLAV COMMENT, WOULD HOPE FOR READ-BACK FROM APPROPRIATE LEVEL ON GOC POLICY POSITION AS WELL AS CONFIRMATION THAT APPROPRIATE INSTRUCTIONS HAVE BEEN CABLED TO CONGO MISSION IN NEW YORK. CHRISTOPHER

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